



Virtual Conference

## Boosting Decent Work in Asia for an Inclusive Recovery

**27-28 October 2021**

Day 1: 13:00 – 15:30 (JST, GMT+9)

Day 2: 13:00 – 15:40 (JST, GMT+9)

### Speaker Biographies (by session)

#### Opening and Welcome Remarks



#### **Tetsushi Sonobe**

Dean and CEO, Asian Development Bank Institute (ADB I)

Tetsushi Sonobe is the Dean and CEO of the Asian Development Bank Institute (ADB I), the Tokyo-based think tank of the Asian Development Bank that promotes the realization of a prosperous, inclusive, resilient, and sustainable Asia and the Pacific through policy research and capacity building.

Born in 1960 in Tokyo, Dean Sonobe obtained his PhD in economics from Yale University and BA in economics from the University of Tokyo. His research interests are centered on the empirics of economic development, particularly the roles of industrial clusters, human capital, social capital, management practices, and market competition in industrial development in developing Asia and other regions.

Before joining ADB I in April 2020, Dean Sonobe served for six years as a vice president of the National Graduate Institute for Policy Studies (GRIPS) in Tokyo and taught economics for thirty years at Tokyo Metropolitan University and GRIPS. Dean Sonobe is a recipient of the Nikkei Book Publication Prize and the Masayoshi Ohira Memorial Prize, and a founding board member of the Japanese Association for Development Economics.

## Moderators



### **Joseph E. Zveglich Jr.**

Acting Chief Economist, Asian Development Bank

Joseph E. Zveglich Jr. is the Acting Chief Economist of the Asian Development Bank. In this role, he sets research directions for the Economic Research and Regional Cooperation Department, ensures research quality, and briefs the ADB Board and Management on emerging economic issues.

Previously as Director of macroeconomic research, Mr. Zveglich oversaw the preparation of the annual Asian Development Outlook and the Asian Development Outlook Update, ADB's flagship publications forecasting economic trends in the region. He has also served as Principal Planning and Policy Economist at ADB's Strategy and Policy Department, Senior Advisor to the President, and as Deputy Country Director at the ADB's Sri Lanka Resident Mission. Mr. Zveglich joined ADB in 1998.

Before ADB, Mr. Zveglich worked as a researcher and instructor at the Harvard Institute for International Development as part of the team providing capacity building to government officials in macroeconomic policy and management. He was also a visiting instructor at the College of William and Mary.

Mr. Zveglich earned his Ph.D. and Master of Arts degree at Harvard University. He graduated *summa cum laude* in economics with an emphasis on Asian studies at Arizona State University.



### **Linda Arthur**

Senior Specialist, Asian Development Bank Institute

**Linda Arthur** is a senior specialist at the Asian Development Bank Institute. She works with government officials by designing knowledge products to strengthen policy making and implementation across a range of priority areas for developing and emerging Asia, including use of strategic foresight for inclusive recovery policies; innovation ecosystems to spur green growth; and leveraging behavioral insight to augment development impact. She is seconded from the Asian Development Bank, where she has worked since 2003, in various positions, including field assignments in Afghanistan and Pakistan. She holds a PhD from Oxford University and an MA and BA from the University of Toronto.

## Session 1



### **Samir Khatiwada**

Technology and Innovation Specialist (Social Sectors), Southeast Asia Department, Asian Development Bank

Sameer is an economist who leads ADB's projects and programs in the areas of education, skills development, social protection and jobs. Prior to joining ADB operations in Southeast Asia, he was with the Macroeconomic Division of the Research Department. His research interest is spread across areas such as impact of technology on employment, innovation and structural transformation, industrial policy, enterprise dynamics and impact of COVID-19 pandemic on labor market. Before joining the ADB in 2017, he spent close to 10 years at the International Labor Organization in Geneva and Bangkok. He holds a PhD in

Economics from the Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies (IHEID) in Geneva and has a master's degree in public policy from Harvard. Follow him on Twitter: @Khatiwada\_S; Email: [skhatiwada@adb.org](mailto:skhatiwada@adb.org)



### **Saurabh Kumar**

Fellow, CUTS International

Dr Saurabh Kumar is an applied economist. His research expertise and interest have been within the areas of gender and economy, women and science, international trade, digital government of ASEAN, geo-economics of South Asia and international economic organization. A large segment of his work has an emphasis on gender.

He currently works as Fellow at CUTS International, India.

Dr Kumar has also worked as a Subir Chowdhury Postdoctoral Fellow at the London School of Economics and Political Science.

He has a PhD in International Organization from Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi.

He can be reached at [saurabhkumarbijnor@gmail.com](mailto:saurabhkumarbijnor@gmail.com)

## Session 2



### **Sasiwimon Warunsiri Paweenawat**

Associate Professor, University of the Thai Chamber of Commerce

Sasiwimon is an Associate Professor at School of Economics, University of the Thai Chamber of Commerce. Her research interests include labor economics, gender economics, and international economics. Recently, she has focused on gender equality, female workers, and labor market in Thailand. Her research has been published in journals such as *World Development* and *Review of Economics of the Household*. She worked as a consultant on gender equality and human capital development for World Bank, Asian Development Bank, and

Economic Research Institute for ASEAN and East Asia (ERIA). Sasiwimon received her Ph.D. in economics from University of Colorado at Boulder, USA.



### **Burulcha Sulaimanova**

Assistant Professor, Kyrgyz-Turkish Manas University

Dr. Burulcha Sulaimanova is an Assistant Professor at Kyrgyz-Turkish Manas University (Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan). She specializes in the fields of labor economics and applied economic analysis in Central Asian countries. In particular, her research interests include education-job mismatch issues in Kyrgyzstan labor market, gender aspects of labor migration, infrastructure development and its impact on Central Asian economies. She has been engaged in various types of projects as researcher, project leader and consultant. Dr. Sulaimanova holds

PhD and MSc degree in Economics from the Kyrgyz-Turkish Manas University, and Bachelor of Arts in Economics from Anadolu University, Turkey.

## **Session 3**



### **Agnes Quilinguing**

Research Consultant, Higher Education and Policy Reform Program,  
University of the Philippines Center for Integrative and Development  
Studies

Agnes Quilinguing is a development professional with more than 15 years of working with international organizations, national government agencies, local government units and civil society organizations in the areas of governance, public sector management and social development. At present, she works as a research consultant for various development organizations, including the U.S. Peace Corps in the Philippines, University of the Philippines Center for Integrative and Development Studies, Terre des Hommes Netherlands, and CBM International – Country Office Philippines.

Agnes is a graduate of Master of Public Administration from the University of the Philippines Diliman. She also finished a bachelor's degree in Community Development from the same university.



### **Indrajit Bairagya**

Assistant Professor, Centre for Human Resource Development, Institute for  
Social and Economic Change, Bangalore, India

Dr. Indrajit Bairagya is currently working as an Assistant Professor at Institute for Social and Economic Change, Bangalore, India. Prior to this, he was Assistant Professor at the Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Guwahati Campus, India. He has published a book titled "Liberalization and Performance of the Informal Sector: A Study of Indian Economy", from *Routledge-Taylor & Francis Group* (London and New York). He has publications in various national and international journals. His research interests include the issues related to labour economics, economics of education, and quality of education. He has his PhD in Economics from the Institute for Social and Economic Change, Bangalore, India.



### **N.P. Dammika Padmakanthi**

Senior Lecturer, University of Kelaniya, Sri Lanka

Dr. N.P Dammika Padmakanthi is currently working as a Senior Lecturer, Department of Economics, Faculty of Social Sciences, University of Kelaniya in Sri Lanka. She obtained her doctoral degree from Saga University, Japan. She has two master's degrees in the field of Economics from the National University of Singapore and the University of Peradeniya in Sri Lanka. She obtained her B.A in Economics degree from the University of Peradeniya. She is currently working on a World Bank-funded project related to social protection and Sustainable Development Goals. Her major research areas are poverty, social protection, environmental economics, and microfinance.

## **Session 4**



### **Partha Pratim Mitra**

Former Principal Labour and Employment Advisor, Ministry of Labour and Employment, Government of India (Retired)

ParthaPratim Mitra is Advisor to Organizations in the areas of labour, skills and employability. He held appointments in the Government of India as Principal Labour and Employment Advisor to the Ministry of Labour and Employment, Government of India; Chief Economic Adviser in the Ministry of Rural Development; Joint Secretary of the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment; and Economic Adviser in the Ministry of Finance, Department of Financial Services.

He holds a Master of Arts degree from the Department of Economics at Calcutta University, and a Bachelor of Law (LLB) from the Law Faculty at Delhi University.



### **Poongothai Venuganan**

Senior Economist, Central Bank of Sri Lanka

Poongothai joined the Economic Research Department in 2010 and is currently Head of the Real Sector division, having previously served in the Modeling & Forecasting division and International Finance & International Relations division of the department. Poongothai holds a MSc in Economics from the University of Nottingham. She is an Associate Member of the Chartered Institute of Management Accountants (UK) and is a passed finalist of the Association of Chartered Certified Accountants (UK) and holds a BSc (Hons) in Applied

Accounting from the Oxford Brookes University. Her research areas of interest are Labour Markets, Poverty, Economic Growth and Macro-modeling.